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UM FOOTBALL COACHES HAVE
INTEREST IN FLOWERS

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From Sports Information Director George Fultz
Written by Dennis Erickson
MISSOULA.....

Flowers and college football?

To most fans of the gridiron game that means Rose Bowl. But for the University of Montana Grizzlies it means Camellia Bowl and 5-11, 220-pound defensive end Terry Flowers.

The Camellia Bowl is the name of the Division II playoff bowl that is held in Sacramento, California. A Sacramento appearance is the goal of the West's Division II football participants.

The Grizzlies, who completed their season Saturday with a 10-0 whitewash of Weber State, won't make it to the 1973 playoffs. They mustered only four wins in ten outings, far short of the 10-0 efforts that netted them Camellia Bowl trips in 1969 and 1970.

Playoffs aside, Flowers, a freshman from Cincinnati, Ohio has made quite a name for himself at the Missoula, Montana school. Head coach Jack Swarthout has nothing but praise for him.

"Terry is destined to be a real great player at UM," Swarthout says. "He has great quickness, good strength and football savvy. He must have had some great high school coaching."

Flowers is a 1973 graduate of Cincinnati's LaSalle High School. Coached by Steve Rasso, he was the school's and the Greater Cincinnati League's Lineman-of-the-Year as a senior. He was named to the Cincinnati Enquirer first team all-star squad and to the Post & Times Star all-star team. A berth on the All-State second team capped his prep career.

"I chose to come to Montana because I liked everyone out here and the school impressed me," the reserved 19-year-old says of his decision to move west. "I also wanted to get away from Cincinnati and away from big city life."

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Missoula, a town of 55,000, is situated in the Rocky Mountains of Western Montana. The University, with its enrollment of 8,600, and the logging rich hills are the mainstay of the community's economic growth.

Flowers started Montana's last four games and has progressed rapidly during his inaugural collegiate campaign. Flowers says he has played more than he expected to.

"I wasn't sure how strong the competition would be," he says. "I can tell you they've got good competition out here. I just got some lucky breaks and was able to prove myself when the coaches gave me a chance to perform."

Flowers' chance to perform came in Montana's first game, a 41-14 pasting of outmanned Simon Fraser. Inserted into the game in the third quarter, he got the opportunity to do what all defensive players dream of. The Simon Fraser quarterback was hit while attempting to pass and the ball came down in the arms of Flowers, who sped 62 yards to paydirt.

"That was quite a thrill, my biggest moment," Flowers says.

Montana defensive coach John Smith says, "We didn't think he had such good speed until the touchdown run and the two times he ran down Idaho's fast halfbacks. He'll be starting for us the next three years and only needs experience before becoming a great football player."

In UM's 20-7 loss to Idaho, Flowers had two touchdown saving tackles on Idaho backs who had broken off long runs.

Injuries decimated an already thin Montana squad during 1973. "I have been disappointed with our record this year. There are a lot of good players and I think we could have won more games," Flowers comments. "Next year we will win more."

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